

Message

From: Dunton, Cheryl [Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/6/2018 11:58:43 PM
To: Bertrand, Charlotte [Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov]
CC: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [Baptist.Erik@epa.gov]; Wise, Louise [Wise.Louise@epa.gov]; Hanley, Mary [Hanley.Mary@epa.gov]; Morris, Jeff [Morris.Jeff@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Press inquiry due at 2pm today: Vice on PFAS

Cleaned up the edits and added a couple of sentences to the response to #1 per Charlotte's comment. See below.

On Sep 6, 2018, at 7:06 PM, Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov> wrote:

I've made some edits and have a comment.

From: Dunton, Cheryl
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 6:59 PM
To: Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <Baptist.Erik@epa.gov>; Wise, Louise <Wise.Louise@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press inquiry due at 2pm today: Vice on PFAS

Just checking in on this one b/c OPA is asking for it. Thanks.

From: Dunton, Cheryl
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 12:58 PM
To: Beck, Nancy <Beck.Nancy@epa.gov>; Bertrand, Charlotte <Bertrand.Charlotte@epa.gov>; Baptist, Erik <baptist.erik@epa.gov>; Wise, Louise <Wise.Louise@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>
Subject: Press inquiry due at 2pm today: Vice on PFAS

See incoming from Vice on PFAS. OW had the lead on this inquiry and asked us to review/provide input on #'s 1, 3, and 4 below. Our additions are in red. Let me know if you have comments/concerns. Thanks.

Incoming #1: How long has the EPA been aware of the dangers of PFOS/PFOA and other PFAS chemicals?

Response #1: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s, and are (or have been) found in a wide array of consumer products like cookware, food packaging, and stain repellants. In the late 1990's EPA received information indicating that PFOS was widespread in the blood of the general population and presented concerns for persistence, bioaccumulation and toxicity. As a result of this information EPA has taken a range of regulatory actions to address PFAS substances in manufacturing and consumer products. Additionally, the Agency launched the PFOA stewardship program to eliminate these chemicals from emissions and products. Learn more about these actions: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfass>.

Incoming #2: I am aware that in 2016 the EPA set its health advisory levels for PFOS and PFOA at 70 parts per trillion. For cases when both chemicals are present, is this advisory level passed when the total of both chemicals exceeds 70 ppt, or when the measure of one individual chemical exceeds 70 ppt?

Response #2: If water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than 70 parts per trillion, EPA recommends that water systems quickly undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope and localized source of contamination to inform next steps.

Incoming #3: What other federal regulations currently exist to protect consumers from PFAS chemicals?

Response #3: PFAS are currently not regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA is initiating the steps to evaluate the need for a Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS. TSCA provides several authorities for reviewing and controlling risks posed by PFAS. Section 5 mandates that EPA review all new chemicals entering the marketplace, including PFAS. Since 2006, has regulated about 200 PFASs through a combination of TSCA Consent Orders and Significant New Use Rules (SNURs).

Incoming #4: Many sources describe a process of mutual agreement through which the federal government and leading manufacturers of PFOS/PFOA ended those chemicals' manufacture and import in the U.S. Can you describe this process in greater detail or provide resources that describe it?

Response #4: Please see the 2010/2015 PFOA Stewardship Program fact sheet for more information: <https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/fact-sheet-20102015-pfoa-stewardship-program>

Incoming #5: What is EPA doing to address and curb PFAS contamination in the future?

Response #5: EPA is Committed to take the following priority actions to address PFAS.

1. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA will initiate steps to evaluate the need for a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS. We will convene our federal partners and examine everything we know about PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.
2. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA is beginning the necessary steps to propose designating PFOA and PFOS as "hazardous substances" through one of the available statutory mechanisms, including potentially CERCLA Section 102.
3. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA is currently developing groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS at contaminated sites and will complete this task by fall of this year.
4. <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA is taking action in close collaboration with our federal and state partners to develop toxicity values for GenX and PFBS.

Additionally, EPA plans to develop a National PFAS Management Plan by the end of the year.

Incoming #6: I've spoken to multiple sources who are doubtful that the EPA can or will move expeditiously to combat PFAS contamination. One such source is Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, who accused the agency of "look[ing] the other way every time they have a chance to protect the public health." Another source suggested that corporate profit motives are in direct conflict with the EPA's interest in regulating these chemicals, making the process more politically difficult. How does the EPA respond to these claims?

Response #6: The agency is taking active steps provide states, tribes, and communities with the tools they need to effectively address PFAS. EPA hosted a PFAS National Leadership Summit in May 2018 that brought together state, tribal, and federal partners, as well as key stakeholders including industry, utilities, Congressional staff, and nongovernmental organizations. The Summit provided an opportunity to share information on ongoing efforts, to identify specific near-term actions, and to address risk

communication challenges. Since June, EPA held five community engagements that has allowed EPA to hear directly from nearly a thousand individuals, including more than 150 people who delivered remarks about their personal experiences.

To ensure that everyone who would like to provide input to EPA, EPA has set up a public docket that will remain open until September 28, 2018. The EPA will consider information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and the public docket to develop a PFAS Management Plan. The Management Plan is expected to include actions that the EPA will take to provide tools that states, tribes, and communities can use to address PFAS.

From: Lynn, Tricia

Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 10:18 AM

To: Dunton, Cheryl <Dunton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Pierce, Alison <Pierce.Alison@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Julia <Ortiz.Julia@epa.gov>; Colip, Matthew <colip.matthew@epa.gov>

Cc: Taylor, Trish <Taylor.Trish@epa.gov>; Fuld, John <Fuld.John@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: ANDREA - ANSWERS - Vice re: PFAS Chemicals

Hi OPPT and OLEM!

Below are a few questions OW is suggesting require your offices' input. The response is due to the reporter at 4pm tomorrow, but if you could get me your comments/additions response prior to that (say by 2 pm tomorrow, though earlier is better), that'd be great.

Thanks so much,

Tricia

From: Fuld, John

Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 9:37 AM

To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>

Cc: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>

Subject: ANDREA - ANSWERS - Vice re: PFAS Chemicals

Provided below with recommendations for other office input.

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Office of Water Media Inquiry

John W. Fuld, Ph.D.

U.S. Media Relations Mgr.-Water

fuld.john@epa.gov

DATE: September 4, 2018

OUTLET: Vice

REPORTER: Sam Easter

TOPIC: PFAS Chemicals

DEADLINE: Thursday, Sept. 6th – 3:30 pm

OPA CONTACT: Tricia Lynn

PROGRAM CONTACT: Christina Wadlington

OW PROGRAM OFFICE: OGWDW

PERTINENT INFORMATION:

QUESTIONS:

1. How long has the EPA been aware of the dangers of PFOS/PFOA and other PFAS chemicals?
2. I am aware that in 2016 the EPA set its health advisory levels for PFOS and PFOA at 70 parts per trillion. For cases when both chemicals are present, is this advisory level passed when the total of both chemicals exceeds 70 ppt, or when the measure of one individual chemical exceeds 70 ppt?
3. What other federal regulations currently exist to protect consumers from PFAS chemicals?
4. Many sources describe a process of mutual agreement through which the federal government and leading manufacturers of PFOS/PFOA ended those chemicals' manufacture and import in the U.S. Can you describe this process in greater detail or provide resources that describe it?
5. What is EPA doing to address and curb PFAS contamination in the future?
6. I've spoken to multiple sources who are doubtful that the EPA can or will move expeditiously to combat PFAS contamination. One such source is Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, who accused the agency of "look[ing] the other way every time they have a chance to protect the public health." Another source suggested that corporate profit motives are in direct conflict with the EPA's interest in regulating these chemicals, making the process more politically difficult. How does the EPA respond to these claims?

ANSWERS:

7. How long has the EPA been aware of the dangers of PFOS/PFOA and other PFAS chemicals?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s, and are (or have been) found in a wide array of consumer products like cookware, food packaging, and stain repellants. OPPT review/additions.

8. I am aware that in 2016 the EPA set its health advisory levels for PFOS and PFOA at 70 parts per trillion. For cases when both chemicals are present, is this advisory level passed when the total of both chemicals exceeds 70 ppt, or when the measure of one individual chemical exceeds 70 ppt?

If water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than 70 parts per trillion, EPA recommends that water systems quickly undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope and localized source of contamination to inform next steps.

9. What other federal regulations currently exist to protect consumers from PFAS chemicals?

PFAS are currently not regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA is initiating the steps to evaluate the need for a Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS. Requires language from OPPT and OLEM.

10. Many sources describe a process of mutual agreement through which the federal government and leading manufacturers of PFOS/PFOA ended those chemicals' manufacture and import in the U.S. Can you describe this process in greater detail or provide resources that describe it?

Defer to OPPT.

11. What is EPA doing to address and curb PFAS contamination in the future?

EPA is Committed to take the following priority actions to address PFAS.

1. **<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA will initiate steps to evaluate the need for a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS. We will convene our federal partners and examine everything we know about PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.**
2. **<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA is beginning the necessary steps to propose designating PFOA and PFOS as "hazardous substances" through one of the available statutory mechanisms, including potentially CERCLA Section 102.**
3. **<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA is currently developing groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS at contaminated sites and will complete this task by fall of this year.**
4. **<!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA is taking action in close collaboration with our federal and state partners to develop toxicity values for GenX and PFBS.**

Additionally, EPA plans to develop a National PFAS Management Plan by the end of the year.

12. I've spoken to multiple sources who are doubtful that the EPA can or will move expeditiously to combat PFAS contamination. One such source is Rep. Dan Kildee, D-

Flint, who accused the agency of “look[ing] the other way every time they have a chance to protect the public health.” Another source suggested that corporate profit motives are in direct conflict with the EPA’s interest in regulating these chemicals, making the process more politically difficult. How does the EPA respond to these claims?

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To ensure that everyone who would like to provide input to EPA, EPA has set up a public docket that will remain open until September 28, 2018. The EPA will consider information from the National Leadership Summit, community engagements, and the public docket to develop a PFAS Management Plan. The Management Plan is expected to include actions that the EPA will take to provide tools that states, tribes, and communities can use to address PFAS.

John W. Fuld, Ph.D.

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Environmental Protection Agency

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Washington DC 20460

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Virescit vulnere virtus

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